796 at Easter instead of on May first.

[208] March 15 is the anniversary of the 1848 revolution. It is today being celebrated by the Communists (along with May 1 and April 4 [Liberation by the Red Army]), who have adapted the anti-Hapsburg sentiment of the day for their anti-Western propaganda. No popular custom is connected with March 15.

[526] At Whitsuntide the youth of the village elects, after horseback riding and athletic competitions, the pünkösdi király, the king for a day, and his queen.

June 29, the feast of the apostles Peter and Paul, opens the harvest season.

[372] On Midsummer day (Szentiván, 'St. John's Day') a Saint John's fire is lit in many Hungarian villages, especially in regions which have come under strong Germanic or Slavic influence. The villagers sit around the fire and sing, while the girls jump over the purifying fire, thus assuring themselves a future happy married life.

August 20 was formerly the day of Saint Steven, first king of Hungary. Before World War II, it was occasionally connected with the gathering in of the crop and thanksgiving ceremonies. Today, its celebration in the old form is forbidden; the government pro-

526 During Lent godly, good Catholics know no dance
883 music or entertainment. But the young people must find some means to enable boys and girls to breathe the same air. To this end there are Lent games. One of these queer Lent games is the «mancsozás» of the Palóc, an interesting ball game. But let us begin earlier than that, as this game has antecedents. It is a custom of the Palóc people (a particular tribe of the Hungarians) that at Carnival or fair dances a girl sends a bunch of flowers to her lover by her godmother. While dancing it blooms on his hat . . . As an answer to this and to express his gratitude the lad, accompanied by a friend of his, brings the girl a «mancsozó». In return he gets any amount of excellent food. The «mancs» is a wooden ball, about the size of a nut, decorated with designs which are burnt into it. The «mancsozó» is an extraordinarily shaped stick, looking like a speaking-trumpet. It is even more extensively decorated than the «mancs» and is used for hitting the «mancs», as «mancsozás» is a ball game with peculiar rules. The wooden ball is not thrown with the hand, as is usually the case when playing ball, but the «mancs» must be thrown into the air and hit with the stick. At that moment the stick emits a sound, as in the bottom of it there is a bottle, closed with a stopper, and into the bottle the carver of the stick has put shot.

524 An even more interesting Lent game is the «sajbózás»,
882 which reminds one of Midsummernight customs. This strange game with fire is still played on the Northern reaches of the Tisza river. Its special date is the first Sunday of Lent. The «sajbó» is a wooden ring, with a diameter of half a foot. Each lad makes about 15 to 20 of them. A long stick is also wanted for the game; each lad has to take one with him. In the day time they build a small reed hovel on the village pasture, with a door so tiny that it only allows one person to stick his hands into it. Before the hut they put a bench or chair, and lean a plank askew against it, one of its ends being on the ground, and the other on the chair